
CHECKLIST & TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPLICANT: City of Crisfield

NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY: City of Crisfield

Please review the checklist of attachments and furnish all of the attachments that are applicable. Contents of the notebook should be tabbed and organized as follows:

- ☐ **TAB #1 Applicant Information**
- ☐ **TAB #2 Sustainable Community Baseline Information - In addition to hard copies of the project location map, a detailed listing of parcels (i.e. Parcel ID Numbers) that form the project boundary should be included. Maps should also be submitted in electronic GIS form (shape file). If you have additional comments or questions, please contact Brad Wolters, Senior GIS Specialist, DHCD, wolters@mdhousing.org.**
- ☐ **TAB #3 Local Capacity to Implement Plans & Projects: Attach Sustainable Communities Workgroup roster noted in Section III**
- ☐ **TAB #4 Sustainable Community Plan**
- ☐ **TAB #5 Progress Measures**
- ☐ **TAB #6 Local Support Resolution**
- ☐ **TAB #7 Signed Sustainable Community Application Disclosure Authorization and Certification**

**All documents on this checklist are mandatory.
Failure to provide the requested document will automatically deny your application.**

I. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY APPLICANT INFORMATION**Name of Sustainable Community:** City of Crisfield

Legal Name of Applicant: City of Crisfield

Federal Identification Number: 52-6000785

Street Address: 319 W. Main Street

City: Crisfield**County:** Somerset**State:** MD**Zip Code:** 21817

Phone No: (410) 968-1333**Fax:** (410) 968-2167**Web Address:** www.cityofcrisfield-md.gov

Sustainable Community Contact For Application Status:**Name:** Percy Purnell**Title:** Mayor

Address: 319 West Main Street**City:** Crisfield**State:** MD**Zip Code:** 21817

Phone No: 410-968-1333 x**Fax:** 410-968-2167**E-mail:** p.purnellmayor@crisfieldcityhall.com

Person to be contacted for Award notification:**Name:** Joyce Morgan**Title:** Clerk-Treasurer

Address: 319 West Main Street**City:** Crisfield**State:** MD**Zip Code:** 21817

Phone No: 410-968-1333 x**Fax:****E-mail:** jmorgan@crisfieldcityhall.com

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

Through this section, applicants will demonstrate that trends and conditions in homeownership, property values, employment, commercial and residential vacancy, community facilities and infrastructure, natural resources, the local business and residential districts show a need for new or continued revitalization reinvestment. Demographic data and trends provided by Applicants should support the choice of the proposed Sustainable Community Area boundary and help form a basis for needs and opportunities to be addressed through the initiatives and projects described in the Sustainable Community Action Plan (Section IV).

POINTS IN THIS SECTION WILL BE AWARDED BASED ON THE SC AREA'S NEED FOR REINVESTMENT AS EVIDENCED BY THOROUGH DESCRIPTIONS OF CURRENT CONDITIONS OR TRENDS (and will not be based upon current or planned revitalization activities which will be covered in Section IV).

A. Proposed Sustainable Community Area (s):

County: Somerset

Name of Sustainable Community: City of Crisfield

Include boundary descriptions and a map of the Sustainable Community. In addition to hard copies of the of the project location map, a detailed listing of parcels (i.e. Parcel ID Numbers) that form the project boundary should be included. If possible, maps should also be submitted in electronic GIS form (shape file). If you have additional comments or questions, please contact Brad Wolters, Senior GIS Specialist, DHCD, Wolters@MdHousing.org

The City of Crisfield is a small and compact city with 2726 residents. It was founded in the late 1800's and attained it's peak during the early 1900's when it was a large port for the processing and shipping of seafood, primarily oysters. The community is small in area approximately three square miles with 1.6 acres of land and 1.4 acres of water. The land mass in Crisfield is almost entirely in the 100 year flood plane, however much of the city has not been flooded since 1937. The proximity of the city next to two large salt water estuaries makes it susceptible to flooding by Atlantic storms. The City of Crisfield is the southern-most city in the state of Maryland.

The Sustainable Area will include the entire Primary Funding Area which encompasses the entire City. The important projects highlighted in the Sustainable Community application are mostly on-going and driven by a Strategic Revitalization Plan presently driven by the availability of grant funds. The near term future projects are also driven by available grant funding as both private funding and tax subsidized funding are extremely limited.

The City government serves approximately 2200 households of which 496 are owner occupied. The City also provides water and sewer to an additional 800 households in the suburban areas adjacent to the city. The population within the city is somewhat static however the suburban areas have grown some, this is due primarily to efforts by the public to avoid the dual taxation system where municipal occupants are taxed by both the county and city. This is a practice instituted through-out the State of Maryland. There are 330 HUD subsidized units of public housing within the city that provide little or no support to the city's tax structure.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

Approximate number of acres within the SC Area: 1,920.00

Existing federal, state or local designations (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Legacy Area | <input type="checkbox"/> Designated Neighborhood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Main Street | <input type="checkbox"/> Maple Street |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Historic District | <input type="checkbox"/> National Register Historic District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A & E District | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Enterprise Zone Special Taxing District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BRAC | <input type="checkbox"/> State Designated TOD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other(s): _____ | |

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

Prior Revitalization Investments & Smart Growth:

(a) List and describe any significant State and local smart growth or revitalization related program investments (for instance, Community Legacy or SC Rehab Tax Credit) that have been invested in the Area since the launching of Maryland's Smart Growth initiative and programs in 1997 (including Housing investment). What impact have these investments made in the community? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The City of Crisfield has submitted and received a number of Community Legacy Grant Request in recent years. The City submitted a grant request in 2009 and 2011 both of which were focused on the infrastructure supporting our downtown tourism and our low to moderate income population. The first grant submitted in 2009 was focused on providing connecting side walks and lighting to access our restaurants, business areas, and the museum from the marina where many of our tourists enter the community from boats. This area also supports the two annual festivals held in Crisfield at the Somers Cove Marina , the Tawes Crab and Clam Bake and the National Hardcrab Derby. These grants provided the sidewalks and lighting to interconnect these areas.

The grant request submitted in 2011 was to continue the development of a sidewalk network to again support the marina and our tourist access to our business, restaurant and museum areas. In addition in 2011 we provided a sidewalk to the Public Housing area to give our low income population access to the restaurant, business, and museum areas.

The first project in our Community Legacy grant request for 2012 was focused first on a low to moderate income neighborhood where the sidewalk infrastructure is in extremely bad condition. The obvious first benefit is to allow a safer passage way for this neighbor to our business areas, but in addition this new sidewalk will allow access for this neighborhood and the rest of the community to sidewalks that will access a new public library project planned and funded by the county, city, and federal agencies for this coming year. This Community Legacy project was funded with approximately 50% of the requested funds. We will be starting this project at a reduced level, weather permitting within the next 30 days.

The second project in 2012 was focused on adding to our tourist and low to moderate income areas on 7th street and Broadway to facilitate additional access to our restaurants, business, local festivals, and museum. This would better provide for pedestrian interface with motor vehicle traffic as they move from the marina and Public Housing Areas to local attractions. This project was to complete our projects of 2009 and 2011 by finishing a few areas and providing additional lightning to these project areas. The grant would have filled in the areas that we could not complete in previous grant cycles due to limited funding. This project was not funded.

The effects of these grants have been positive. Marina based tourist now have safe access to our restaurants, business areas, and our museum. This has increased the foot traffic to these areas in the summer months. It has provided a better experience for tourist visiting the various festivals and it has provided a safer, easier, and quicker access for the residents of our public housing.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(b) Describe any existing barriers to Smart Growth that may affect your jurisdiction or the proposed SC Area. For instance, does your area have higher development fees than outer "cornfields"?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The barriers to location within any municipality exist in all of Maryland except Baltimore City due to the fact that any entity is double taxed because they are within the limits of an incorporated city. Crisfield is no different, location within the corporate limits of the city means you pay double taxes. Those taxes include real estate and personal property taxes.

The building codes that are used by the counties and the city are basically the same regardless of where you locate in a corn field or within the City. The Department of Environment now enforces against the use of non-tidal wetlands and the utilization of farm land for development. However we see increasing methods for getting around the rules. The Governor has a bill to eliminate development of large sewerage facilities not connected with municipalities however it is still cheaper to locate in a cornfield than it is to locate within a municipality.

The City of Crisfield also has a contract with the Somerset County Sanitary Commission to provide water and sewer to areas outside the city limits. This contract was forced upon the city when the city was in need of a sewer plant upgrade about 20 years ago and the contract has another 20 years before it expires. This allows business and residences to occupy any vacant lot and the city through the sanitary commission has to provide service. The city can prevent subdivisions on land where there is existing development however we cannot prevent development if the sewer facilities run by a vacant piece of farm land. We have enforced this to try and get business to locate in the city however there have been many unenforceable situations.

There are a number of housing subdivisions located outside the city that were established prior to the governor's recent initiatives and these subdivisions continue to grow with high priced housing.

There has also been still another deterrent to the location of new residents to the community in the last three years the State of Maryland has withheld highway user funds to municipalities and counties. The state has continued to pave roads that pass many of these developments while the cities have been unable to provide paving within their limits. This was also compounded by the federal stimulus monies that were given to the state and to the county while the cities were denied access. This has left many of the cities with extremely poor road infrastructure.

The results of all of this activity over the last twenty years has been the movement of about 25 percent of the more affluent residential population and about 15 percent of the business populations to subdivisions outside the city limits

The City of Crisfield is in the process of annexing the only area zoned as Industrial in our area that is outside the city limits. This annexation was made possible by a grant for a piece of land for an industrial park from the Department of Business and Economic development and a gift of an Industrial Site that was originally located outside the city to avoid additional property and personal property taxes by a private corporation. The corporation gave the city the site after it fell into disrepair and they were unable to sell the property. The site includes 26 acres and an old 70 thousand square foot manufacturing facility. We are in the process of renovating the facility and utilizing it as a business start up location to help new businesses.

The bottom line is that it is extremely difficult to attract new business and new residential developments in the present tax environment.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

B. Community Conditions: Strengths and Weaknesses

(1) Describe the strengths and weaknesses in the proposed Area's existing built environment. For example, what is the condition of housing? Are there underutilized historic buildings and cultural places? What is the condition and availability of community parks and recreational assets? Are there transportation assets? What is the current condition of community infrastructure such as roads and lighting? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The community's strength centers around small-town values, excellent atmosphere, great views of nature, and excellent access to the salt water estuaries for many water related activities. The community has an excellent marina with over 150 boat slips.

There is a large variety of housing from private condominiums to reasonably priced individual houses, to 330 units of public housing. There are houses from every price range and building lots both on the water and inland.

The infrastructure of the community has both areas of strength and of weakness; there is a new sewer plant about 8 years old. Much of the community has a new sewer system, with only small areas awaiting upgrades. The city has secured two small grants; one from MDE and one from DHCD coupled with a loan supported by local taxpayers, to replace the sewer collection system on the west side of the community. Requests for additional grant funding from DOE and DHCD have been submitted for each of the last three years to attempt to replace the sewer collection in one of the sections of the city's sewer collection system. We are unable to support additional loans at this time.

The water system is in good shape with 6 functioning wells and two water towers to maintain surplus and water pressure.

The sidewalks are good in most areas with only certain areas awaiting replacement either from citizens owning adjacent property or the city providing up grades with limited grant funding. The road system shows many streets in need of paving, primarily due to poor management during periods when H.U. money was available and an absence of H.U. money at this time. There has been almost no H.U. funding in the past four years which has brought paving to a halt.

Street Lighting in the city is leased from the local power company and is more than adequate and in good repair. We have installed a few street lights which are owned and maintained by the city with previous Community Legacy Funds, in concert with replacing sidewalks, curb, and gutter.

There are two sections of commercial buildings. The section closest to the water is in the best shape with many of the buildings owned by local residents who maintain businesses and offices. The commercial buildings in the center of the town, including city hall, are in fair condition, but mostly unoccupied due to a lack of successful business operations driven by inability to compete with malls and Wal-Mart located in adjacent communities. The additional plight this area suffers from is out of town/state ownership. Many of these buildings were purchased by investors hoping to make big profits on reselling the property, investing almost no money in maintenance but having too much money invested to sell.

The transportation system is support by a Tri County organization supported by state funding providing bus transportation from Crisfield to the surrounding communities. There is no strictly internal bus or public transportation system. There are local taxis that provide transportation around the community. The community is only 3 square miles with only 1.6 sq miles of land so all areas are available by foot or bicycle.

We have two areas for recreation besides the facilities at the local High School and a consolidated elementary school which both have gymnasiums, a theatre, and outdoor athletic fields. We have a small public beach area that is leased by the city from the local American Legion Post. There is also a public pier for crabbing and fishing next to the beach that is owned by the city. There is also a large pavilion with public piers for fishing in the downtown area of the community that is owned by the city. There is a public playground and four pavilions with a nature trail in process. This playground and pavilions and nature trail are a result of a grant from the Department of Natural Resources Open Space Program.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(2) Describe the Area's land use/zoning make-up (residential, commercial, industrial, and mixed-use). Is the current land use or zoning conducive to revitalization investment? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Crisfield is structured like most waterfront communities, particularly older communities that were started by the seafood industries. When the community was developed, the waterfront was the location for most of the manufacturing or in the case of waterfront communities the location where the seafood was brought ashore processed and shipped. The more affluent parts of the community were inland and the commercial area was between the industrial and the residential.

Like most waterfront communities, Crisfield has evolved with the seafood industry decline. Many of the seafood industry locations on the waterfront are gone. Many of them have been replaced by condominiums and restaurants. The commercial districts have remained next to this area, with a few businesses moving closer to the waterfront due to the increased residential traffic created by the condominiums. The majority of the residential areas, other than condominiums, are still inland within the city limits. There are a few commercial parcels intermingled within the residential areas, but it is limited.

The Industrial areas that once existed for manufacturing seafood related tools, packaging, canning and processing seafood and agriculture related products are mostly gone. We have three seafood processing facilities left and all three are on the water. We have vacant land left on the waterfront that is available for development. Most of it is zoned tourism maritime but could be rezoned to industrial or commercial without spot zoning or creating an abnormal area. In one of the residential areas we have a strip mall type of commercial setting with a Food Lion and a series of small stores, mostly vacant, with one small restaurant. There is also a McDonalds located adjacent to this area.

There is an Industrial Area located on the fringes of the city that is bordered by 14 acres of woodland. This was to be an Industrial Park but was stopped by the Department of Environment due to their identification of the area as non-tidal wetlands. There is one additional Industrial area that is adjacent to the woodlands that the city is in the process of annexing. This is an old manufacturing plant that we have grants and plans to revitalize, once it is annexed.

The types of parcels within the city break down as follows:

Residential 1268
 Commercial 441
 Apartments 9
 City, County, and State owned 198
 Agriculture 2
 Exempt commercial 86
 Resident/condominiums 443
 Commercial/Industrial/Condominiums 9
 Marsh 2

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

3) Describe strengths and weaknesses in basic features of community quality-of-life. For instance, is crime an issue for this SC Area? What is the condition and quality of educational choices available to the community? Are artistic, cultural, or community resources, events or facilities within or accessible to residents in the proposed SC Area? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Crisfield is an excellent community in which to live and raise children. The community is blessed with natural resources. We have salt water estuaries on three sides of the community. The climate here is relatively pleasant and mild, year round, and rarely do we experience any type of extreme severe weather.

The crime rate in Crisfield is the lowest in the last five years and the rate five years ago was low as compared to any urban area within the state. Movement within the city is safe and parents feel free to allow their children to move freely about the community.

There is a pre-school head start program, a county centralized elementary school, and a High School available within the community. There is a county centralized middle school grades 5 thru 7 available 15 miles outside the city with transportation provided by a county provided public school bus transportation system. There are a multitude of private schools with one in the city, one in Somerset County about 15 miles away and three available in Salisbury about 35 miles away. The Tawes museum, which is open to the public, houses the history of the city with exhibits.

The community has a public library that has existed for 50 years. The Somerset County Library Board is in the process of building a new library. The land has already been purchased. We have an active Arts Council that conducts exhibits on a regular schedule.

There is a division of the University of Maryland 20 miles away providing secondary education and many cultural events. Salisbury University is 35 miles away providing the same services.

Outdoor recreational facilities include a state park with camping, kayaking, boating, fishing and crabbing and other recreational facilities available. Somers Cove Marina is also within the community, a state facility, providing boating services to the public. There is also a public beach and a number of piers throughout the community for fishing, crabbing and a new public park in the final stages of completion.

There are three major festivals held within the community each year with the Soft crab Festival held in June, the Tawes Crab and Clam bake held in July and the National Hard crab festival held on Labor Day weekend. There is also a Freedom Festival held on the 4th of July to celebrate our Community and National holiday. In addition, the City Events Planner, in conjunction with the Chamber and the City, also schedules various events such as our annual Christmas Parade, Home Tours and other Holiday programs, as well as various bus trips throughout the year to locations such as New York and Pennsylvania

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

C. Natural Resources and Environmental Impact: Strengths and Weaknesses

(1) Describe the strengths and weaknesses of the community's "natural environment." in or near the Sustainable Community Area. What is the current condition of key natural resources - lands, air, water, watersheds, tree canopy, other? If the community is located in a coastal zone, what risks might the community be subject to associated with climate induced sea level rise? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The City of Crisfield is a peninsula. It is surrounded by water on three sides. It is a small urban area inhabited by approximately 3000 people with the next community 20 miles away. The combination of these attributes creates a pristine environment.

The city has no smoke or chemical discharging industrial complexes consequently with an almost constant sea breeze we have extremely clean and fresh air. The discharge from any storm water immediately goes into the salt water estuary so we have no storm water collection ponds to create pollution. Major storms such as hurricanes and intense low pressure storms do create flooding in the community next to the salt water estuaries. We do have some routine salt water street flooding on high tides and we have applied and have been notified that we will receive monies to install approximately 20 new tide gates to help control this flooding which will greatly improve all areas of the community; residential, businesses, the Somers Cove Marina and our local watermen, as well as protect our roadways from the erosion caused by flood tides. Most of the community is within the 100 flood plain however about 50% of the community has not flooded for over 75 years. The last major flooding that covered all of the community was in 1937.

The tree canopy in most of the community is excellent however near the salt water estuaries the salt prevents the existence and growth of many species of trees and plants other than sea grasses and fragmites. Much of the land near the estuaries is built on a foundation of oyster shells which also inhibits growth of large trees.

The climate induced sea level rise has had an effect on erosion of parts of the salt water marsh that buffer the community from the various storms. The community has retained its land base with bulkheads and tide gates to prevent erosion.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(2) Describe the strengths and weaknesses of any current efforts to reduce the community's "carbon footprint" or impact on the environment. Is recycling (commercial or residential) available to minimize waste? Are there current efforts to encourage the purchase and availability of fresh local food and other local products and services to the community? Describe any current energy or water conservation efforts that may be underway. If the community has not implemented one of the above initiatives, has the community identified a need or interest to pursue these or other efforts to reduce environmental impact, for instance through the new Sustainable Maryland Certified initiative? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The City of Crisfield is presently in the final stages of the installation of a new water meter system to conserve the utilization of water. We are in our 7th year of utilization of a newly designed ENR/BNR sewer collection system. These activities will over a long time frame continue to improve the environment of the community.

The City instigated a new recycle and garbage collection system within the community this year. We have participated in a recycle program for years, but we have placed a renewed emphasis on recycling to help reduce the tonnage that we are placing in the county landfill. This is both to reduce the tonnage and also the cost to collect and haul garbage and recyclable materials.

The City is about half way to the completion of a new wind turbine project to provide electricity to the waste water treatment plant. We received a grant from the Department of Environment to fund a large portion of the activity. We also received a grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development thru Block grant funds to purchase land around the proposed turbine location next to the wastewater treatment plant. The city presently spends about \$250K in electricity to run our treatment plant. The new 750KW Wind Turbine should come on line late this year and supply all of the electricity needs for the wastewater treatment plant and the lift stations which aid in the collection of sewerage from the outlying areas of the community.

The City has encouraged farmers markets in the past and we plan on encouraging the activity this summer. Many of the local farmers and garden enthusiasts have sold fresh produce in privately owned vegetable and fruit stands located throughout the city. We encourage this activity and plan to make space available for farmers to sell fresh produce the local main dock.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(3) Describe the strengths and weaknesses of the jurisdiction's current stormwater management practices and how these may affect the proposed SC Area. Is redevelopment and retrofitting of infrastructure an issue or opportunity in this SC Area? Stormwater runoff is a significant source of pollution to Maryland's streams and the Chesapeake Bay. Buildings constructed before 1985 have little or no stormwater controls, and development between 1985 and 2010 have some controls. Updated stormwater regulations passed by Maryland's General Assembly in 2010 require that development and redevelopment projects utilize stringent stormwater controls. Sustainable Community Areas may have opportunities for redevelopment practices that can reduce stormwater flows. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Sustainable Communities Area for the City of Crisfield covers the entire city. Crisfield is a waterfront community surrounded on three sides by salt water estuaries. The community is located at the end of a peninsula. The community has an elevation of one foot above sea level.

When we receive a heavy rainfall on a high tide storm water management becomes very difficult. The city has relied for many years on a ditch system to catch the excess rainwater runoff. Maintaining the ditches and preventing the flooding of these ditches during high tides is the key to reducing flooding in our community.

The City of Crisfield applied for a grant from the Emergency Management Agency last year to purchase and install tide gates to prevent the water level in our ditches from flooding during high tides. We have been notified that we were awarded about \$100K to buy and install 26 tide gates of various sizes. The money has not been released to date. We have experimented with modern tide gates and found we were able to control flooding during high tides and also during storms. If the ditches are maintained dry or with minimal water the ditches are capable of handling high volumes of rain water and holding it until the tides subside.

Crisfield has almost no industrial run off. We have no active industrial sites within the community. The storm water runoff within the city is mainly from residential areas and streets within the commercial areas.

The Sanitary Sewer is contained and does not intermix with the storm water collection system. There was minimal construction within the community prior to 1985. Most of the construction consisted of condominium units constructed after 2004, and they met storm water management requirements as designated during that period.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

D. Economic Conditions & Access to Opportunity: Strengths and Weaknesses

(1) Describe the jurisdiction's current economic strengths and weaknesses. For example, are there distinct economic drivers in the area or region that will affect access to job opportunities and the progress of the SC Plan? What are the main barriers to the Area's economic competitiveness? What is the current level of broadband access available to serve residents, businesses and public facilities? What efforts are currently in place to increase worker skills and employment? Describe trends in employment rates and business formation.

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Economic conditions in the City of Crisfield are very difficult. We have high unemployment and limited opportunity for employment within the community. This is complicated by low education accomplishment levels and elevated high school dropout rates.

The City of Crisfield worked with the Sherwin Williams Corporation in 2009 to secure a grant from the Department of Business and Economic Development to move a line that manufactures paint rollers from Ohio to Crisfield. The grant developed 125 new jobs for the community. Unfortunately, a large percentage of these jobs went to employees in adjoining communities. Sherwin Williams sited limited applications and workers in the community with limited skills and work histories. Total employment at the Sherwin Williams stands at about 225.

The McCready Foundation is a hospital, clinic, and a nursing home complex located within the City of Crisfield. The complex employs about 240 employees at various skill levels from janitorial to doctors. It has been a large employer within the City of Crisfield for over 50 years.

There are three Seafood Packers within the community that employ a combination of approximately 30 people. These are mostly jobs handling, packing, and shipping fresh seafood. There is also a crab pot manufacturer within the community who employs approximately 10 people.

There is also a couple of boat builders who employ about 5 people each and a marine diesel refurbishment facility that employees about 10 people. The remainder of the community is made up of small service oriented businesses.

There is a public transportation system that connects the community to the neighboring communities. There are a number of people who commute daily either via bus or private vehicle to jobs in these communities. The barriers to these jobs are education, police records, and prior employment records.

The City of Crisfield has 330 units of public housing. This public housing has become a drawing card for unemployed workers from adjoining communities and unemployed workers who apply for HUD housing in other communities. This pool of workers has been difficult to employ due to low education levels, police records, and poor work histories.

The City has undertaken the development of a new industrial site located just outside the city limits. The City received the 23 acre industrial site as a gift from the owner in 2011. The city has received grants to renovate the facility and is in the process of working with a number of potential manufacturing occupants. The goal is to create about 75 jobs. The grant funds are tied to the creation of the jobs.

There is a new broadband link with 96 strands of fiber that will be connected to Crisfield within the next year. There are a number of potential users, i.e. the schools, library, hospital and potentially the Sherwin Williams and the new facility under development by the city.

There are a number of secondary education facilities that provide trade and academic training in adjoining communities. There are scholarships to attend these facilities. These opportunities are highlighted by the state employment agencies and are available to the citizens of Crisfield. The county provides GED training for students who did not complete high school.

The general trend within the community for small service businesses has declined. The major employers within the community appear to be holding their own.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(2) Describe the jurisdiction's housing market and access to affordable workforce housing. What are the trends in residential construction (rental and homeownership), homeownership rate, foreclosure rate and, property values. Describe how and whether your jurisdiction's prevailing housing costs - both homeownership and rental - are affordable to households below 120% AMI, 80% AMI and 50% AMI. What efforts are in place currently to house individuals, families and the disabled at or below the AMI levels described above? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The City of Crisfield has a large population with incomes below the AMI. We presently have 330 units of HUD public housing plus approximately 30 section 8 housing units.

The owner occupied number of housing is probably at an all time low with only 496 units of a total of 2226 units occupied by owners. This is a trend due to the high cost of maintaining a home and the increased cost of utilities that has occurred over the last few years.

The HUD housing also provides utilities, free garbage collection and practically eliminates the need for insurances. Many of the elderly and low income families have migrated to this housing.

The city has initiated a number of programs over the last few years including housing renovation thru CDBG funding with the county taking the lead, Homes for American with the city underwriting the program, and the actual replacement of homes again under a Housing and Community Development program when the renovation exceed the value of the existing home.

The City does not have the funding to make housing more affordable and the market of supply and demand sets the cost for most rentals of homes and apartments. The normal going rate ranges from \$500 to \$800 with the condition and size of the home governing the actual rental cost. A limited number of older homes go unoccupied due to the fact they are old and the cost to heat them exceeds the income levels of the rental market. There are no new housing units being built for rental. The cost of construction exceeds the profit margins that can be attained for rentals in this market.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(3) Describe the SC Area's demographic trends (with respect to age, race, household size, household income, educational attainment, or other relevant factors). (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The 2010 population of Crisfield is approximately 2723 with a male population of 1172 and a female population of 1551. The median age is approximately 36 years old. The per capita income is \$12,387 and the median income is \$17,979. Thirty point five percent (30.5%) of the city residents have incomes below the poverty level. The estimated White population in Crisfield is 1594, which is 58.5% of the total population. The estimated Black population in Crisfield is 1,020 which is 37.5% of the total population. The number of residents identified as "some other race" was 10. The Hispanic population in Crisfield was 45. There are approximately 2226 total housing units in Crisfield. The number of occupied housing units was 2230 and 496 of these are owner occupied and 1730 are non-owner occupied. There are a number of vacant homes in Crisfield. The number of these units changes on a monthly basis. The average household is 2.3 residents and the percentage of Crisfield residents over the age of 25 with a high school diploma is 63.4%.

III. LOCAL CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT PLANS & PROJECTS

A. Organizational Structure:

Describe the Applicant's organizational structure. Specifically, which organizations are members in the Sustainable Communities Workgroup and who are the respective staff? Who are the leaders, and how will the Workgroup advisor or staff manage implementation of the SC Area Plan? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The organizational structure for the City of Crisfield follows the guidelines for most small communities within the State of Maryland. The structure follows a Mayoral form of municipal government with a five member city council. The Mayor and the city department heads form the Executive arm of the city with the City Council forming the legislative structure for the city.

The department heads are made up of the following positions. The City Manager which is presently vacant and the position is being filled by the Mayor. This occurred due to an illness of the City Manager forcing him to retire and the economic environment delaying a replacement in this position. The Mayor has been serving in this capacity for over a year. This position will be filled when the economic conditions improve. The department heads include a Clerk Treasurer who manages all of our financial activities including budget, tax collections, water and sewer collections and payroll, a Director of Water, Sewer, Streets and Roads. We have managers in both the Water and Sewer area and the Streets and Roads area. We have a City Inspector who also manages I.T and oversees bid and large acquisitions. We have a police chief who oversees all law enforcement. We have an Executive Secretary who manages overall office operations and coordinates the day to day activities.

Our team in the Sustainable Community activities will include each of these team members plus relevant community leaders on an on call as needed basis. We have an excellent working relationship with the Chamber of Commerce, the Somers Cove Marina, the Heritage Foundation which includes the Tawes Museum, the CEO of the McCready Foundation who operates the local hospital, the Manager of the Sherwin Williams manufacturing facility and the local principals within the Somerset County Board of Education. We also have an established working relationship with the Somerset County Economic Development Director, the county Director of Planning, and the elected Somerset County Commissioners.

The management of the Sustainable Community Plan and activities will be handled by the mayor. He is a retired Corporate Business Executive with over 40 years of business experience having worked for and retired from both the Lockheed Martin Corporation and the General Telephone and Electronics Corporation. The day to day activities and coordination will be managed by the Clerk Treasurer with over 30 years of experience within the City of Crisfield and our Executive Secretary who also has over 30 years of experience. Both of these personnel oversee the day to day activities with input from the City Inspector and the Director of Public Facilities. The Inspector and the Director of Public Facilities also have over 30 years of experience.

This team manages the City, all existing grants which include a \$300 K grant for a new park, a \$4 M grant for a new wind turbine, a \$60 K grant for sidewalks, a \$1.2M grant for Water Meters, a \$1.5 M for a renovation of the City Dock, a \$1M grant to renovate an existing Industrial Complex, a \$600 K grant for land acquisition for the Wind Turbine. They are capable, efficient, and experienced in planning, grants operations and municipal management.

III. LOCAL CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT PLANS & PROJECTS

B.Organizational Experience:

Describe the Applicant organization's past experience in administering revitalization plans and projects.

Describe the roles of the members of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup, including their experience in implementing revitalization initiatives. What are the strengths and challenges of the capacity of these groups with respect to implementation of the SC Plan? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The City of Crisfield has managed many projects in the revitalization of our city over the last five years of the present administration.

In the 2006 time frame the management team in the City of Crisfield successfully managed a sewer collection system replacement program. This program managed the replacement of the sewer collection system for the entire western side of our community. We received a combination of grants totaling approximately \$500 K from the Department of Environment, and CDBG funds. We combined this with a loan of \$1.2M to complete the project on time and within budget.

In 2007 this management team successfully managed a grant for \$300 K from the Department of Environment to install a forced main in our sewer collection system on Broadway within our community. In 2009 we managed a Community Legacy grant of approximately \$70K to replace and install new sidewalks and street lights on 7th, 8th, and 9th street. In 2011 this management successfully managed a Community Legacy grant of approximately \$75 K to install new sidewalks on Broadway and Lori Quinn Drive.

This management team has managed grants from the Department of Natural Resources to expand docks in the beach recreation area at the end of Brick Hill Drive. We have an on-going grant of approximately \$300 K about 60% completed to design and install a new park in the Collins street area. We have a City Dock restoration project about 30% completed awaiting permits utilizing two congressional designates and grants from the Department of Natural Resources and CDBG. We have an Industrial Park project about 50% completed with a grant from the Department of Business and Economic Development. We have a Wind Turbine Project to install a new 750KW Wind Turbine to supply electricity to operate our waste water treatment plant about 20% completed. We are in the initial stages of a just awarded \$60K Community Legacy Project to install new sidewalks, focused on Chesapeake Ave with expansions through out the community. The team also has managed a \$1.2 M Water Meter project to install new water meters throughout the community. This project will be completed within the next 30 days.

The Clerk Treasurer tracks the financial disbursements of these projects and oversees the required reporting. The Executive Secretary coordinates the day to day activity. The City Inspector oversees the validity of activity such as annexations, permits and subcontracting with bids, advertisements etc. The Mayor oversees the interaction with the prime subcontractors, including schedules and deliverables. The Director of Streets, Roads, Sewer, and Water provides technical expertise and interacts with contractors. The team meets regularly to coordinate and track progress on projects. This team is focused on the renovation of our city.

III. LOCAL CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT PLANS & PROJECTS

C. Public Input:

How did residents and other stakeholders in the community provide input to Action Plan described below in Section IV? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Public Input in our community is derived through constant interaction with the various civic, service, commercial, and economic development organizations within and servicing the community. We have a number of joint activities with these organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, the HUD housing Authority, the state operated Somers Cover Marina and the various service clubs. The City Council and Mayor attend and serve on the boards of many of these organizations. We seek ideas, provide ideas and work together to form joint solutions to many of our operation and renovation problems within the city.

We also brief all of our projects at each city council meeting seeking public ideas on methodologies to improve our implementation and schedule for projects. In addition we hold public hearing prior to the initiation of all new projects both in the pre grant request cycle and in the implementation schedule.

We attend all of the HUD public housing monthly meeting where we derived the need for sidewalks connecting this area with the marina and commercial business areas.

We attend and serve on the state operated Somers Cove Marina where we derived the need for connecting sidewalks to serve their customers who arrive via boats.

We attend and serve on boards for the Heritage Foundation where we derived the need for sidewalks to connect their facility to the community.

We attend the monthly meeting of the Chamber of Commerce where we developed the idea of a jointly funded events planner to develop new activities within our community and to coordinate their Annual Tawes Clam and Crab Bake, National Hard Crab Derby and other key events within the city.

We also attend the monthly meeting of the Somerset County Economic Development Commission where we jointly developed the need for an Industrial Park and a grant to expand the Sherwin Williams Plant with a new \$800K grant from the Department of Business and Economic Development. This idea and grant provided 125 new jobs to the Crisfield Area.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

A. Supporting existing communities & reducing environmental impacts.

(1) A community's approach to Smart Growth generally includes two inter-related areas of focus: encouraging reinvestment and growth in existing communities; and, discouraging growth that degrades natural resources, and farms and rural landscapes. Broadly describe your jurisdiction's Smart Growth approach and any significant accomplishments made over the last decade or so. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Mayor and City Council recognized early in their administration in 2006 that the community had severe infrastructure problems, high unemployment, and city management structure that was not conducive to the maintenance and growth of the City of Crisfield.

With high un-employment, limited tax income, and 20 years of poor management we recognized many problems, however we had limited resources to both plan and implement solutions. We immediately went on a search for resources to allow us to start the planning process and funds to implement the plans.

In 2006 we acquired funding from the Department of Planning to update our Comprehensive Plan. In 2007 we sought funds from the Department of Planning, the Department of Natural Resources, and CDBG to fund the development a Strategic Revitalization Plan to govern the rehabilitation of the City. The Strategic Revitalization Plan was completed in September of 2008.

Once we had completed and actually during the planning phase we went on a search for funds to start to correct some of the glaring deficiencies within the city infrastructure. In 2006 we managed to acquire some left over or returned funding from the Department of Environment and the Department of Housing and Community development mainly CDBG to start the replacement of the sewer collection system on the western side of the community. This funding was approximately \$500K. This was both important to our environment and to our operating expenditures because we found that we were taking in approximately 150K gallons of sea water daily in our sewer system. This obviously equated to a large portion of sewerage spilling or leaking into the salt water estuaries. Once we got into the project we found we had to borrow \$1.2 M to complete the project. We also acquired \$ 300K from the DOE to put in a forced main to prevent sewer overflows on one of our streets named Broadway.

Since 2006 we have acquired funding to install sidewalks, install new docks and develop parks for recreation, develop an Industrial Park project, install water meters to conserve water and energy, start a port renovation to aid commerce, develop a Wind Turbine Project to conserve energy and free up tax funds for paving and other needed infrastructure projects, hire an Events Planner to expand tourism, expand jobs by 125 new jobs through a grant to retool an existing plant, and restructure and reduce city government to better serve our citizens.

Our Strategic Revitalization Plan covers all of these areas. We have not always been able to stage or complete needed solutions in the areas of employment, attracting new development, replacing infrastructure, improving the environment, and reducing cost. We have had to grasp grants and other opportunities as they became available.

However our end solution is fixed and it includes the sustainment, rehabilitation, improvement, and expansion of the City of Crisfield while maintaining and improving the environment utilizing whatever means that are available.

The final on-going phase of our Sustainable Plan and the follow on process is the recognition that although we have accomplished a lot and we have a lot in process we have a very long road to the accomplishment of our goals.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) Describe any major investments in community infrastructure -water, stormwater, sewer, sidewalk, lighting, etc. -- that must be undertaken in order to improve the readiness or competitiveness of the proposed SC Area for private investment and compliance (if applicable) with TMDL regulations. Addressing the stormwater during redevelopment can reduce the pollution entering our streams and contribution to the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. Investments in infrastructure, generally, can be an important catalyst for new private investment in the community. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Sustainable Communities Area for the City of Crisfield covers the entire city. Crisfield is a waterfront community surrounded on three sides by salt water estuaries. The community is located at the end of a peninsula. The community has an elevation of one foot above sea level.

The City of Crisfield's Water system is in good shape as far as wells, distribution, and metering with the completion of our on-going water meter project. We do all of our chemical insertion at the well head and we do not have a water plant facility. We monitor at each well and our two water tower facilities are pressurizing the system. The only major improvement I can see in the near future is a stand alone water plant facility where all monitoring and chemical insertion would take place.

Storm Water Management is always a problem for a seaside community as you have to balance storm water against tide water and you usually get an excess of both at the same time. When we receive a heavy rainfall on a high tide storm water management becomes very difficult. The city has relied for many years on a ditch system to catch the excess rainwater runoff. Maintaining the ditches and preventing the flooding of these ditches during high tides is the key to reducing flooding in our community.

The City of Crisfield applied for a grant from the Emergency Management Agency last year to purchase and install tide gates to prevent the water level in our ditches from flooding during high tides. We have been notified that we were awarded about \$100K to buy and install 26 tide gates of various sizes. The money has not been released to date. We have experimented with modern tide gates and found we were able to control flooding during high tides and also during storms. If the ditches are maintained dry or with minimal water the ditches are capable of handling high volumes of rain water and holding it until the tides subside.

Crisfield has almost no industrial run off. We have no active industrial sites within the community. The storm water run off within the city is mainly from residential areas and streets within the commercial areas. The Sanitary Sewer is contained and does not intermix with the storm water collection system. There was minimal construction within the community prior to 1985. Most of the construction consisted of condominium units constructed after 2004 and they met storm water management requirements as designated during that period.

The new requirements for storm water management will create problems for Crisfield. Any new storm water installations we make will be more difficult and more expensive. If we have to retrofit existing drains it will probably be very expensive and very difficult.

Our sewer system is in good shape except for a portion of the collection system in the center of our community. This affects both residential and commercial in this area. The sewer collection system in this area was installed in 1936 and it is deteriorating. We have applied for grants for each of the last three years and have not been successful.

The other area of difficulty in our system is the out of town areas we serve. The sewerage in these areas is pumped towards our system with a series of lift stations. Our system is a gravity flow system and when you dump large amounts of sewerage in our system as during high rain fall periods it overwhelms our system. We have requested grants for a new lift station and a new forced main to alleviate this problem in one major area of the city so far we have been unsuccessful.

Lighting in our community is leased from the power company. We would like to own this capability and to provide power to it via alternate sources of energy. This would be a large savings. We have no plans to do this in the immediate future.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) Describe policies, initiatives or projects that the community will undertake or expand in order to reduce the SC Area's impact on the environment. Examples include but are not limited to: conservation or management of stormwater through retrofitting of streets and by-ways (Green Streets, rain gardens, etc.); retrofitting of facilities and homes for energy conservation; implementation of "green" building codes and mixed-use zoning; recycling of waste; clean-ups of watersheds; and, encouragement of "Buy Local" approaches that benefit local suppliers and food producers. A comprehensive menu of such actions may be found through the nonprofit Sustainable Maryland Certified initiative. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The City of Crisfield is presently in the final stages of the installation of a new water meter system to conserve the utilization of water. We are in our 7th year of utilization of a newly designed ENR/BNR sewer collection system. These activities will over a long time frame continue to improve the environment of the community.

The City instigated a new recycle and garbage collection system within the community this year. We have participated in a recycle program for years but we have placed a renewed emphasis on recycling to help reduce the tonnage that we are placing in the county landfill. This is both to reduce the tonnage and also the cost to collect and haul garbage and recyclable materials.

The City is about half way to the completion of a new wind turbine project to provide electricity to the waste water treatment plant. We received a grant from the Department of Environment to fund a large portion of the activity. We also received a grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development thru Block grant funds to purchase land around the proposed turbine location next to the wastewater treatment plant. The city presently spends about \$250K in electricity to run our treatment plant. The new 750KW Wind Turbine should come on line late this year and supply all of the electricity needs for the wastewater treatment plant and the lift stations which aid in the collection of sewerage from the outlying areas of the community.

The City has encouraged farmers markets in the past and we plan on encouraging the activity this summer. Many of the local farmers and garden enthusiasts have sold fresh produce in privately owned vegetable and fruit stands located throughout the city. We encourage this activity and plan to make space available for farmers to sell fresh produce the local main dock.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(4) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The elected officials of the City of Crisfield and staff will be the key to the implementation of a Sustainable Community Plan. The remainder of the Groups and Stakeholders are made up of volunteers and employees of those organizations who although they are involved and provide input cannot be depended on or expected to place this plan in-front of their primary missions or objectives.

The ancillary organizations include the following in the order of importance:

Chamber of Commerce
Somerset County Economic Development
Somerset County Planning
Heritage Foundation
Somers Cove Marina
Crisfield Housing Authority
Somerset County Sanitary Commission

Various service organizations to include:

American Legion
Elks
Lion's Club
VFW

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

B. Valuing communities and neighborhoods -- building upon assets and building in amenities:

(1) What are the key assets that exist in the community upon which the Plan's projects and initiatives will build? Assets may include physical assets such as parks and historic structures and also civic and economic assets such as employers, educational institutions, and cultural organizations and activities. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The key assets that the City of Crisfield has to build upon would focus on our environment. A water side community with an abundance of water related assets such as fishing, crabbing, and all of the ancillary water sports would have to be our primary asset. These would be the things that would make a person to relocate here, a business to locate here or a tourist to come here.

We have some industry but nothing that could not be duplicated at some other city. Our environment is temperature moderate but not warm all year. We have no natural assets such as coal, oil or natural gas. Our people are friendly but other communities have the same.

We are a community with a small town environment where most everyone knows everyone. We have a small hospital, a small airport, and a great marina and lots of water related activities.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) What policies, initiatives or projects will reuse or enhance the historical assets, traditional business districts/Main Streets and cultural resources of the community? What actions will reinforce your community's authentic "sense of place" and historic character? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The City of Crisfield has traditionally been known as a waterfront or Seafood related community. Most of our small business has been related in some way either to this industry or to the general service needs of the community. The historic areas are a combination of buildings that were used for these purposes but not unique because of their utilization.

The existing policies are not unique to the environment of being next to a seafood or waterfront community they are mostly policies that every community has relating to building, safety, and environmentally friendly uses.

Historic districts are created due to age not use or environment therefore again any policy or project or initiative would blend with the existing historic districts as long as the historic structure was preserved.

Initiatives such as the creation of a new business district from an existing district to enhance the economy would have to fit or be applicable or utilization friendly to the existing building structures although an initiative that would modify the existing structures could certainly be considered if the economic benefits, i.e. jobs would be greatly enhanced.

Infrastructure, new streets, sidewalk, curb, gutter, sewer collection initiatives would certainly enhance any of our existing historic neighborhoods.

Crisfield has been know as a community of individuals, people who could make something of natural assets such as seafood, example we make crab pots, oyster knives, crab nets, build boats, and carvings or paintings of various wild life objects or environments. An initiative to enhance and beautify the existing business districts for utilization of artisans or restaurants to serve seafood would definitely be positive.

An initiative to renovate the existing business area by making it conducive to new shops, restaurants, and businesses would certainly be conducive to the preservation of the existing historic and community structure. The problem lies in the ownership of these structures. Most of the ownership is by non residents who purchased the property to flip it or profit from the resale. They all seem to be waiting for someone to enhance their property so they can sell it at a large profit. The initiative to renovate would have to be proceeded by an initiative to purchase to allow the renovation initiative to be successful long term.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) Describe policies, initiatives or projects that will increase community access to green spaces, parks and other amenities? A community can gain social and physical benefits from access to a healthy natural environment. The inclusion of complete streets, trails, green space, parks and trees contribute to the character and health of a community. Examples might include improvements to the tree canopy by planting street trees, improving local neighborhood streams, or reusing a vacant lot for a new community park or playground.*(Answer Space 4,000 characters)*

A project to provide a docking and embankment facility for kayaks and canoes with restrooms and a snack bar would greatly enhance the public's access to the water related assets of the community.

A project to integrate a boat rental facility within the marina would provide the public access to the water related assets of the community without having to own a boat. It would draw more tourists to the area.

A water park next to the salt water estuaries of the community would be a drawing attraction for the community for tourist. It would also be a means of entertainment for local youth.

A community swimming pool would be a great venue for local youth and an attraction for people who are considering relocation.

A free boat taxi service between the local dock or marina to Jane's Island State Park for access to beaches and nature trails would be a great attraction for tourist, local residents, and people looking to relocate.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(4) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section? *(Answer Space 4,000 characters)*

The key groups connected with the success or implementation of initiatives described in this section would include the following:

The state operated Somers Cove Marina

The American Legion

The Department of Natural Resources

The initiatives listed in this section include primarily salt water estuary water related facilities. The existing land and facilities of the organizations listed would be key and their participation in the development of these projects would be necessary in order for them to be successful

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

C. Enhancing economic competitiveness

(1) What economic development policies, initiatives or projects will improve the economy through investments in small businesses and other key employment sectors? What economic development and business incentives will you build upon or implement as part of the SC Plan? Examples could include but are not limited to: green-taping for expedited project application review; permitting and inspection; job training; business tax credits; and, revolving loan funds. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The City of Crisfield has provided tax incentives in the past by forgiving personal property taxes for businesses that create large numbers of jobs. The application has been limited because we have a limited number of employers who employ large numbers of employees and the city needs the revenue to provide basic services.

Permitting has never been a problem in Crisfield as we have a limited number of applicants for permits and new business is very important to our city. We occasionally incur businesses who want us to over look code violations and we are unable to do this due to state laws and requirements for public safety.

The activities that the city will participate in and support in the future include:

- 1.Support of the revolving loan fund provided by the Somerset County Economic Development Commission.
- 2.Expedite the permitting process while attempting to reduce the permitting and inspection fees.
- 3.Continue to support new activities within the community through our event planner to attract more people to the downtown districts.
- 4.Continue infrastructure improvements to make the downtown districts more attractive.
- 5.Actively looking for small box stores like Dollar Tree and other successful chains to locate in Crisfield.
- 6.Providing support for the acquisition of loans from the Department of Business and Economic development for the establishment of new business.
- 7.Participate in the Main Street program to help certify our downtown district within the state.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) What workforce development policies, initiatives or projects will increase access to jobs and economic opportunity for residents in the SC Area? Do you have a goal for job creation? Are green jobs an opportunity in the jurisdiction or SC Area? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Economic conditions in the City of Crisfield are very difficult. We have high unemployment and limited opportunity for employment within the community. This is complicated by low education accomplishment levels and elevated high school drop out rates.

The City of Crisfield worked with the Sherwin Williams and the Somerset County Economic Development commission to acquire a grant for Sherwin Williams to allow them to re-tool their factory making space and developing a new line for paint rollers. This allowed them to consolidate their processes and move a production line from one of their Ohio plants to Crisfield. This activity resulted in the establishment of 125 new jobs for the Crisfield plant.

This process seems to be attainable and repeatable for the City of Crisfield. We have acquired another production facility and we have grants to renovate the facility. We will be marketing the facility as a facility for new manufacturing processes and new companies to enter our SC area. Experience has taught us we have a better result from creating manufacturing or refurbishment facilities than trying to establish small business. We will continue to support small business establishment thru policies, grants, and support however we will focus on establishing this new facility.

Our goal for this new facility is the establishment of 75 new jobs in the next two years. Green manufacturing of Solar Panels or Wind Turbines are target areas for a portion of our new manufacturing facility.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) Describe whether the Sustainable Community will be impacted by the Base Re-alignment and Closure (BRAC) activities in Maryland. If impacted, how do the initiatives and projects in your Plan complement BRAC-related growth? (If not applicable, all ten points will be assessed based on answers to questions 1, 2, and 4) (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Not Applicable

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(4) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Not Applicable

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

D. Promoting access to quality affordable housing.

(1) What housing policies, initiatives or projects will expand housing choices - rental and homeownership -- for people of a range of ages, incomes, and also for disabled individuals? How will these actions address the current housing conditions and needs noted in Section II? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The City of Crisfield has a wide range of housing available within the community. We have previously stated that there are 330 units of HUD public housing that serves all levels of low to moderate income and housing for the elderly. This is the most efficient and affordable housing available anywhere.

There are an ample number of private housing units for people who can afford these units. The City sponsored 6 units of housing built by Homes for America. This housing came with loan forgiveness for a portion of the mortgage which made it very affordable. The process took over two years to find 6 families who were interested and capable of acquiring this housing. The only housing in short supply in Crisfield is higher end elderly housing. The City has looked at methods to support the development of this type of housing and will continue to do so.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) Will these housing initiatives or projects increase access to transit or community walkability and/or decrease transportation costs? In other words, will the housing investments result in more people living near work or town centers, or able to more conveniently reach work, school, shopping and/or recreation?*(Answer Space 4,000 characters)*

The City of Crisfield is only three square miles. The transportation system is provided by the Tri County and is not an internal city transportation system. The bus system is designed for transportation from Crisfield to adjoining communities. Based on this information we do not feel any housing development is going to improve interconnectivity to a transportation system.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) What is your goal for of number of units to be created of affordable workforce housing, rental and homeownership? What populations (by income or special needs) will benefit from this increased access to affordable housing? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The City of Crisfield would like to establish about thirty units of elderly housing. The low to moderate income market is covered by HUD public housing. There are ample single housing units already on the market. The only shortage of housing is in the elderly housing market. This market equates to about thirty elderly families and single who no longer want to manage and support a single housing unit.

(4) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The information provided in the previous charts will not require any involvement by community groups. The City of Crisfield will pursue various developers to seek the potential for an elderly multi family housing unit in our community

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

E. Support transportation efficiency and access.

(1) What policies, strategies and projects are envisioned to strengthen the transportation network that affects the proposed SC Area? How will these initiatives support transportation choices (including walking, bicycling, bus or rail transit, and carpooling) or otherwise promote an efficient transportation network that integrates housing and transportation land uses? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The transportation system supporting the City of Crisfield is provided by the Tri County organization. This is financially supported by the three counties, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester. It is also supported by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

The system is a bus system that interconnects Crisfield with the other communities in the Tri County area. There are a number of stops in the Crisfield area. However it is a system that interconnects towns with no provision for in city transportation. The city is small and there is access in all of the areas of the city. There is little the City of Crisfield can do to improve efficiency.

There is a public taxi within the city area. The City of Crisfield cannot afford to initiate an internal transportation system. We petitioned the legislature to allow the utilization of golf carts within the city but the legislation never got out of committee due to objections by the State Police and the MD Department of Transportation.

The city area is only one square mile so both walking and bicycles are palatable means of transportation. Motor scooters are also utilized by our citizenry.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) If applicable, describe the SC Area's connection or proximity to transportation centers (e.g. Metro, MARC, and light rail stations) and describe opportunities for Transit - Oriented Development (TOD). Will Plan strategies and projects contribute to jobs/housing balance or otherwise provide a mix of land uses that can be expected to reduce reliance on single-occupancy automobiles? (If transit or TOD is not applicable in your community, all points in this section will be based on questions 1 and 3) (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The section is not applicable to the City of Crisfield. We are located in a rural area approximately 150 miles from any major metropolitan area. We have no access to trains or subway systems.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

There is no application for a community group in this area as the area has no application for the Crisfield SC.

V. PROGRESS MEASURES

For the Plan parts of section IV (A through F):

(1) List the specific outcomes that the Plan seeks to produce. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The specific outcomes this Plan seeks to produce:

- o Improvement in infrastructure
- o Increase in commercial activity
- o Increase in numbers of tourist and visitors to our business districts.
- o Increased employment at our re-developed Industrial Facility and in our service business in our business districts.
- o Improvement in our flooding controls
- o Improvement in our storm water management
- o Increased funding for paving and other projects derived from energy savings at our sewer plant due to our new wind turbine.
- o Increased commercial traffic at our city dock.
- o Increased saving on water due to our new water meters.
- o Increased citizen satisfaction with our new park.

(2) And, list the specific benchmarks that will be used to measure progress toward these outcomes. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

- o The benchmarks within the individual programs will be utilized first. An example would be for the program to have been bid, program awarded, program completed. The program will be the driver for each area of undertaking.
- o Measurements with each area that have measurable criteria or results. An example would be for the water meter, the amount of water pumped, electricity and chemicals utilized, and the budget savings realized.
- o The same measurements would also apply to the wind turbine project. First the program completion then the measurements on electricity generated, reductions in electricity purchased to operate the sewer plant. The reductions in budget cost
- o Infrastructure such as sidewalks, roads, sewer collection will contribute to increases in commercial investment, additional tourist or visitors, and additional employment.
- o The final stage will be additional income from taxes that will be generated by additional tourist, visitors, additional citizenry, and additional employment.

REPLACE THIS PAGE WITH
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT
RESOLUTIONS

**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY APPLICATION
DISCLOSURE AUTHORIZATION AND CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned authorizes the Department of Housing and Community Development (the “Department”) to make such inquiries as necessary, including, but not limited to, credit inquiries, in order to verify the accuracy of the statements made by the applicant and to determine the creditworthiness of the applicant.

In accordance with Executive Order 01.01.1983.18, the Department advises you that certain personal information is necessary to determine your eligibility for financial assistance. Availability of this information for public inspection is governed by Maryland’s Access to Public Records Act, State Government Article, Section 10-611 et seq. of the Annotated Code of Maryland (the “Act”). This information will be disclosed to appropriate staff of the Department or to public officials for purposes directly connected with administration of this financial assistance program for which its use is intended. Such information may be shared with State, federal or local government agencies, which have a financial role in the project. You have the right to inspect, amend, or correct personal records in accordance with the Act.

The Department intends to make available to the public certain information regarding projects recommended for funding in the Sustainable Community Plan. The information available to the public will include the information in this application, as may be supplemented or amended. This information may be confidential under the Act. If you consider this information confidential and do not want it made available to the public, please indicate that in writing and attach the same to this application.

You agree that not attaching an objection constitutes your consent to the information being made available to the public and a waiver of any rights you may have regarding this information under the Act.

I have read and understand the above paragraph. Applicant’s Initials: _____

Anyone who knowingly makes, or causes to be made, any false statement or report relative to this financial assistance application, for the purposes of influencing the action of the Department on such application, is subject to immediate cancellation of financial assistance and other penalties authorized by law.

The undersigned hereby certifies that the Sustainable Communities Plan or Project(s) proposed in this Application can be accomplished and further certifies that the information set herein and in any attachment in support hereof is true, correct, and complete to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

Authorized Signature

Print Name and Title

Date